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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,987	04/27/2001	Thomas Ohlsson	P01,0100	1545

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EXAMINER

OROPEZA, FRANCES P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3762

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,987

Applicant(s)

OHLSSON, THOMAS

Examiner

Frances P. Oropeza

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swenson et al. (US 5776057) in view of Faisandier (US 5669393). Swenson et al. disclose a virtual medical instrument (figure 1; col. 2 @ 40- col. 3 @ 13; col. 3 @ 28-51; col. 4 @ 33-64; col. 6 @ 34 – col. 7 @ 30; col. 7 @ 41-47 and 56-62; col. 9 @ 46-57).

As related to claims 4-9 and 11-12, the selection of a protocol is related to use of a corresponding conduit set that is attached to the patient in a pre-established manner as shown on the display. It is inherent the conduit set is identified or labeled to ensure the proper conduit set is attached to the patient. (col. 6 @ 62 – col. 7 @ 22)

As related to claims 2-15, the system has been defined in a functional manner. The grouping of the functional elements into one or multiple individual unit(s) is disclosed to enable multiple arrangements of components, hence meeting the requirements of different applications (e.g. the combining of the universal interface with the signal generator and a display screen). (col. 10 @ 1-24).

As discussed in the three previous paragraphs of this action, Swenson et al. disclose the claimed invention except for a signal from a signal generator received by the monitoring system designating the mating configuration.

Faisandier teaches interface programming using a signal from a signal generator received by the microprocessor, read as the monitoring system, to designate the mating configuration for the purpose of enable the system to be configured base on the electronic input signals to perform multiple varied monitoring functions associated with sensors and added measurement systems.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a signal from a signal generator received by the monitoring system designating the mating configuration in the modified Swenson et al. system in order to provide a simple electronic means of enabling the connections associated with potential complex patient monitoring that avoids modification of the hardware or cabling configurations of the system (col. 1 @ 13-19, 37-49 and 56-63; col. 2 @ 15-33; col. 3 @ 51-55; col. 4 @ 40-44 and 55-59).

2. Claims 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swenson et al. (US 5776057) in view of Faisandier (US 5669393) and further in view of Fine et al. (US 5640967). As discussed in paragraph 1 of this action, modified Swenson et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the label removably placeable and permanently fixed on the outer surface of the interface unit.

Fine et al. disclose a monitoring system for use with an electrophysiology study and teach that it is known to place a permanently fixed removably placeable label, read as positioned and removed by programming, next to a connector on the outer surface of the interface unit to identify the connector/connection (figure 3; col. 7 @ 44-65). It is understood the electronic label could be a placard, since it has been held to make labeling automatic or electronic is not novel. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the instrument for performing medical diagnostic testing as taught by modified Swenson et al., with the removably placeable label as taught by Fine et al. to clarify the connector/connection between the sensor and the monitoring system to enable a successful signal acquisition and processing process (col. 4 @ 56-60).

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swenson et al. (US 5776057) in view of Faisandier (US 5669393) and further in view of Fine et al. (US 5640967) and further in view of Fenzlein et al. (US 5425361). As discussed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this action, modified Swenson et al. disclose the claimed invention except for an element placable on the outer surface of the interface unit containing machine-readable information and a means for reading the machine-readable information from the element.

Fenzlein et al. disclose a medical measuring apparatus and teaches that it is known to use a bar code reader (12) and bar codes to ensure a sensor is properly identified relative to the monitoring process (figure 1; col. 5 @ 36-50). It is obvious the bar code could be mounted on the interface unit and/or the sensor to serve the purpose of properly identifying the components and the intended connection arrangement. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the modified instrument for performing medical diagnostic testing as taught by modified Swenson et al., with the bar code reader and bar code identification as taught by Fenzlein et al. to provide an additional or alternate means to ensure the sensor is properly identified relative to the monitoring process to enable a successful signal acquisition and processing process (col. 1 @ 30-33 and col. 2 @ 1-8).

Statutory Basis

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

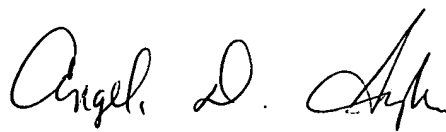
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza, telephone number is (703) 605-4355. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Angela D. Sykes can be reached on (703) 308-5181. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-4520 for regular communication and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist, telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

Frances P. Oropeza
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3762

JFO
5-12-03



ANGELA D. SYKES
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